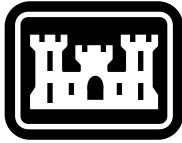


August 21, 2006



**U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Norfolk District

Fort Norfolk, 803 Front Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-1096

Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund Estimates

Effective immediately, I have directed my staff not to issue or verify any permits that require mitigation for stream impacts without obtaining an updated Trust Fund estimate. This would apply even to recently issued estimates.

I have issued this guidance because recent experiences have shown us that the estimates we have been giving to permit applicants haven't been keeping up with the actual costs of performing stream mitigation. This has partly been due to our increased understanding of what is needed to insure adequate mitigation for stream impacts and partly due to increasing real estate costs. Without updated pricing, the Trust Fund will be unable to perform sufficient mitigation to compensate for the authorized impacts. All estimates provided are valid for one year.

My staff will be in contact with applicants to advise them of any changes in the estimate. If an applicant is unwilling to contribute the new estimate, they have the option of performing project-specific mitigation, reducing the proposed impacts, or purchasing credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank.

J. Robert Hume, III
Chief, Regulatory Branch